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Response dated 17 February 2006
Responsive to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment remailed on 10 February 2006

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the original version of the following paragraphs with the following replacement paragraphs at the indicated locations in the specification as originally filed.

Page 12 at line 6:

The effect generating element and/or effect receiving element discussed thus far may be designed to perform any combination of moving, connecting or transforming the article. An example of this embodiment is shown in Figure 2a wherein the active external change aid comprises a changing mat 11 having an effect generating element comprising a curved spring tension arm 53 disposed on one or both sides of the changing mat 11. As shown in Figure 2a, the article 20 includes an effect receiving element comprising fasteners 48. The spring arms 53 may be connected to the fasteners 48 or any other portion of the article such that the article 20 is suspended between the spring arms 53 and above the changing mat ~~12~~ 11. A connection enables the active external change aid to hold and/or move at least a portion of the article in position relative to the active external change aid. As the wearer 30 presses against the article 20 toward the changing mat ~~12~~ 11 the spring arms 53 are pulled inward by the article 20 as the article is pressed toward the changing mat ~~12~~ 11.

Page 12 at line 18:

Figure 2b shows the wearer 30 and article 20 pressed against the changing mat ~~12~~ 11. The spring arms 53 are pulled inward to the wearer 30 as the wearer approaches the changing mat ~~12~~ 11 such that the article is proximately placed for application to the wearer 30. In addition, the article fasteners 48 may be proximately placed for fastening to one another as shown in Figure 2b, or actually connected to one another, thus causing a transformation and further assisting the changing process.

Page 12 at line 24:

Although the application of the embodiments discussed thus far have described the wearer lying on the external change aid during use, the active external change aids disclosed herein may be configured to assist in the application of externally worn articles with the wearer disposed in other orientations as well. For instance, each of the embodiments discussed can be

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configured to function while the wearer is sitting or standing as long as the wearer is placed in proximity to the active external change aid. Although many of the effect generating elements previously discussed use the wearer's weight to create motion, these embodiments may be configured to work in other positions if the wearer supplies an external force to a region of the active external change aid. For example, the active external change aid carrying the article may comprise wall-mounted or vertically mounted freestanding floor units arranged such that the wearer simply backs into the unit. When the wearer presses into the active external change aid, portions of the article would wrap around the wearer. Such active external change aids 14 10 with effect generating elements 50 are shown in Figure 6a-c. Generally, the active external change aid may be configured to function while the wearer is lying down, sitting, standing upright or in any other desired orientation.